

Under the scheme, subsidy ranging between 50 to 90% is admissible on the transport costs incurred for movement of raw material and finished goods from the designated rail head/ports upto the location of the industrial units and vice-versa. The scheme has been extended from time to time and was last extended from 1.4.1995 to 31.3.2000 vide notification dated 29.9.1995. A provision has also been introduced for making payments by the Government of India directly to the units in exceptional cases.

Upto March 1996, Rs. 147.27 crores had been reimbursed to the North-Eastern States under the scheme (Assam—Rs. 113.09 cr., Tripura—cr., Meghalaya—Rs. 7.24 cr., Mizoram—6.44 cr., Manipur—Rs. 2.76 cr., Arunachal Pradesh—Rs. 4.92 cr. and Nagaland—Rs. 8.60 cr.)

Formulation of New Norms for Backward Districts

5267. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new norms for identifying Backward Districts;

(b) whether any committee has been appointed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Planning Commission have not formulated any norms for the identification of the backward districts per se. However, the Government had appointed a Study Group for identifying backward districts for the purpose of allowing a five year holiday followed by tax concessions for another five years for the new industrial undertakings commencing operation in such districts during 1.10.1994 to 31.3.1998 under Section 801A of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The Study Group had submitted its report in October, 1994 which was later reviewed by another Study Group in the Ministry of Finance. The Review Group had recently submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

Pipeline between Haldia and Barauni

5268. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether pipeline is being planned between Haldia and Barauni to transport crude oil;

(b) if so, the reasons/objectives thereof;

(c) whether above mode of transportation of oil will be cheaper in comparison with the transportation of crude oil by inland waterways; and

(d) if so, the advantages, both—financial and otherwise to be accrued by resorting to installation of pipelines between Haldia and Barauni ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) to (d) The Government have approved the proposal of IOC to lay a crude oil pipeline from Haldia to Barauni at an estimated cost of Rs. 952.95 crores, for augmenting the crude availability to Barauni Refinery. The analysis of transportation of crude by pipeline vis-a-vis Inland Waterways and other connected issues had already been carried out and only after techno-economic consideration, the project was sanctioned.

[Translation]

Import of Machineries for Hydro Electric Power Projects

5269. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of proposals/memoranda received by the Union Government from the Government of Gujarat regarding import of machineries for hydro electric power projects during the last three years and till date;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHAIR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Poverty in Tribal Areas

5270. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even after nearly half a century since the country became independent, there still exists certain areas where poverty and starvation are still prevailing amongst tribals and other backward people such as in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified such pockets and areas and the people afflicted with object poverty and starvation, if so, the details of the areas in Orissa and other States so identified; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ameliorate the living conditions of these people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) The planning and development of an area within a State and allocation of resources for its development is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Government of India have been helping the States in alleviation of poverty through various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like IRDP, JRY, EAS, NRY as well as development programmes like DPAP, DDP, HADP, ITDP etc. The Government also proposes to strengthen the Minimum Needs Programme by making special allocations to the States to improve the quality of life of the people. As regards backward areas of Orissa, a long term action plan has been approved for 8 districts namely, Koraput, Rayagada, Naurangpur, Malgangiri, Kalahandi, Naupada, Bolangir and Sonepur with the objective of mitigating the extreme poverty in these districts.

Off-Shore Project

5271. SHRI JAYANTA BHATTACHARYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of Off-Shore Project at Jellingham, District Midnapore, West Bengal;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure the placement of order from O.N.G.C. to this Unit; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the smooth running of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Jobs to Kashmiri Youths

5272. DR. M.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is considering the proposal to provide jobs to Kashmiri Youths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the migrant youths of the State would also be provided jobs as per proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (e) State Government has been implementing a large number of schemes with a view to provide Self Employment ventures for the educated/uneducated youth of the State.

The State Government through the Plan mechanism provides employment opportunities for about 5000 people in Government sector. For uneducated unemployed youth, the schemes under implementation are Integrated Rural Development Schemes, other employment generation programmes like JRY/EAS. It is proposed to create 192 lakh mandays during the current year under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. The State Government is also implementing PMRY scheme under which 3100 units are to be covered during the current year.

2. A massive programme for employment for educated youth at a total of Rs. 66 crores envisaging direct and indirect employment for about 52000 persons has also been formulated by the State Government. Under this scheme an outlay for the current year is Rs. 16 lakhs and 6200 units are proposed to be established to give employment to 12000 youth.

3. The migrant youth of the State are also eligible for these schemes.

Hydel Projects

5273. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether small hydel projects have been set up in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the total energy generated during the last three years, Project-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) 183 small hydel power projects, upto 3 MW station, capacity, with an aggregate capacity of about 129 MW, have so far been set up in